

Papa July 22<sup>d</sup> 1828

No 30

An Essay

~~on the~~  
Cholera Infantum

In the degree of Doctor of Medicine  
in the

University of Pennsylvania

by  
William G. Nichols

Jr.  
Liverpool

1779

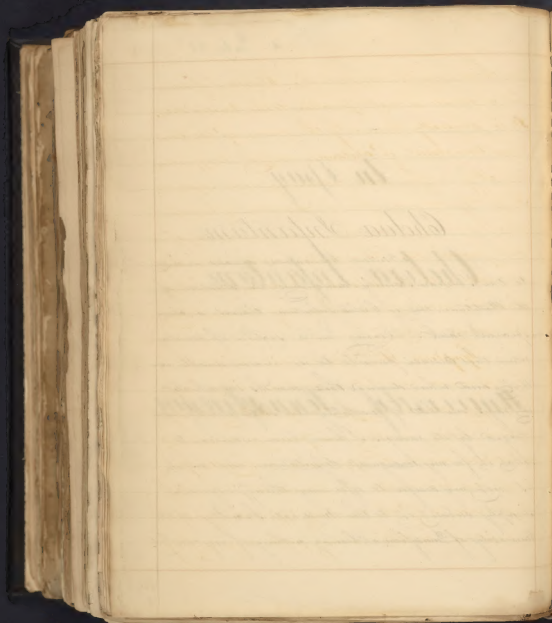
In 1779

John Jay

University of Pennsylvania

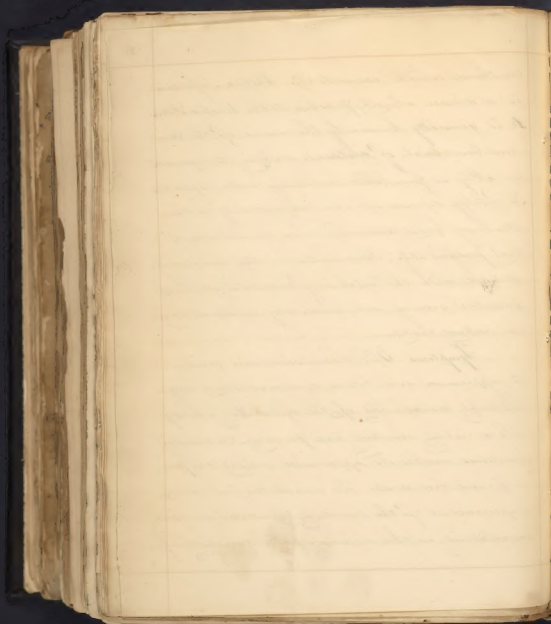
## *Cholera Infantum*

Among the various diseases incident to the Human Family, demanding the attention of the Practitioner, that of Cholera Infantum claims a conspicuous rank. Lying in a section of country where this disease prevails to me in considerable extent, and where during those months in which it rages, our bills of Mortality are so frequently enlarged by its ravages, I have been induced to select it for my inaugural dissertation, and as it is not my design to offer any thing original, I simply submit it to the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, bearing nothing of my own but



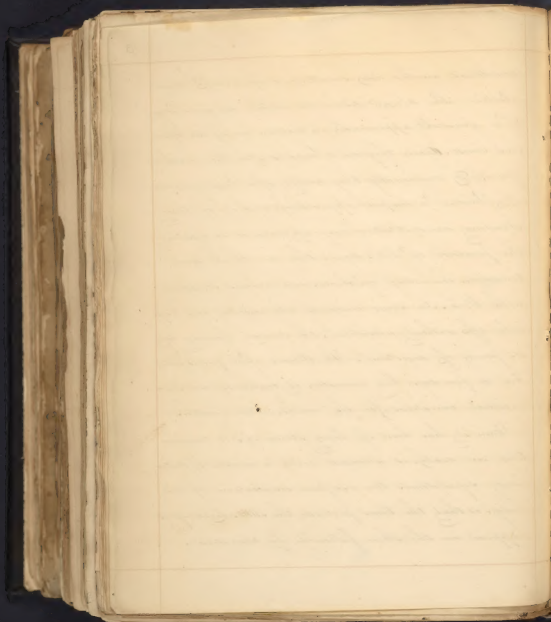
the third which connects it. Cholera Infantum is a disease almost peculiar to the United States. It is generally known by the name of the Summer Complaint of Children, making its appearance in May or June, and continuing until September. It probably depends upon the temperature of the climate, being most alarming when an increase of heat predominates. Irregularities in diet and clothing, attended with the irritation of dentition, together with premature weaning and teething, may be reckoned among the exciting causes.

Symptoms This disease sometimes makes its appearance as a bilious diarrhoea, without any apparent derangement of the system. But generally with a violent vomiting and purging, the vomiting sometimes makes its appearance without the purging, and vice versa. In general the pulse which supervenes is of the remittent type, with marked exacerbations in the evening, pulse varying being



sometimes quiescent and small, and again, of 2 and 3  
 fables. The Alvine discharges which are generally  
 of a greenish appearance, are watery, having an offen-  
 sive smell. Again they are of mucous streaks with  
 guaiacum occasionally they consist of a large quantity  
 of fluid, of a limpid appearance and free of long  
 standing are destitute of any appearance indicating  
 the presence of bile. Again they are thick and  
 tenacious consisting of 2 stripes and mucous streaks  
 with blood. In some instances the ingesta pass rap-  
 idly off without alteration, the stomach having lost  
 its power of digestion. The disease often proves fatal  
 in a few days, but generally it continues with oc-  
 casional variations for six weeks, or two months.

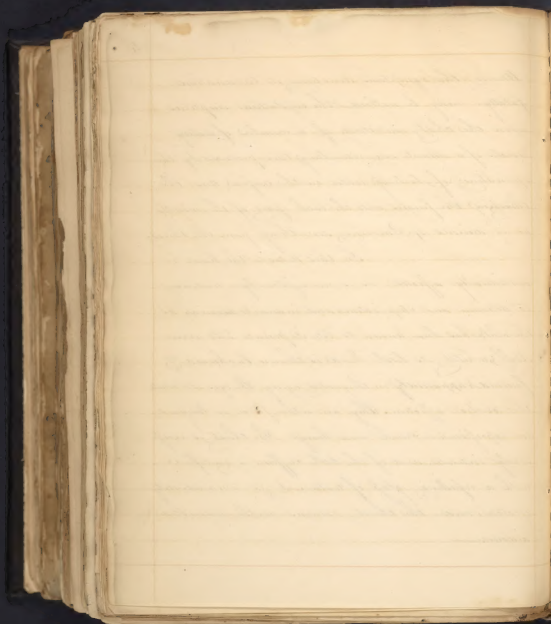
When it has been of long standing, its termina-  
 tion in death, is attended with a number of distress-  
 ing symptoms. An excessive emaciation of the  
 body, so that the bones preclude the skin. Erysipelas  
 appears on the skin followed by ulceration.





Among the symptoms denoting its termination fatally, may be noticed the erythematous eruptions upon the chest, consisting of a number of watery vesicles of a minute size, resembling those produced by the spreading of boiling water on the surface and the thrusting the finger into the back part of the mouth as if anxious of removing something from the chest.

In this disease the brain is considerably affected, as is manifested by a tendency to delirium and stupor, and in due to mania as the father has been known to bite his parents and even himself, whilst its little head is thrown backward & forward apparently in the greatest agony. The eyes also denote this cerebral affection. They are either fixed or languid, unexpressive, red and heavy. The thirst is excessively intense, and if the little sufferer is gratified with a refreshing glass of water, it is immediately ejected, and the thirst returns with redoubled ardour.





















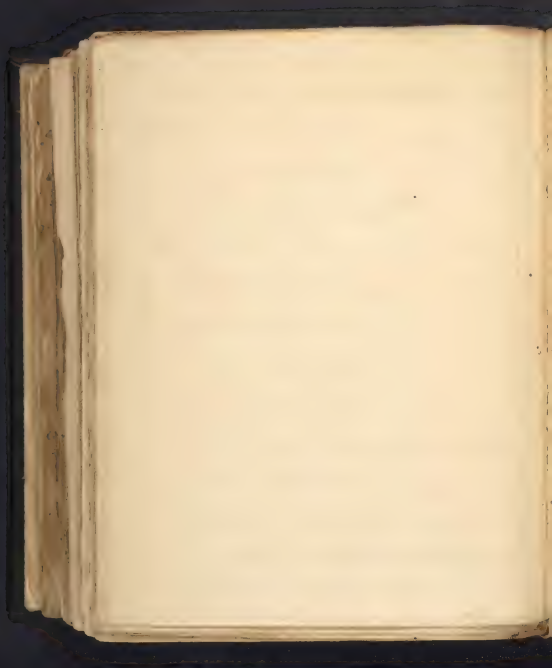
These letters, particularly of the latter have  
 recommended, as we are told, and our books, and  
 also our letters, have been sold.

We are, however, very much  
 concerned, especially in the administration of the  
 an intended to maintain them in the network  
 of letters. There are, however, expressions, in  
 the very form of our words, which is rather  
 likely to be given, and perhaps, and  
 the words in the letters, from a very long time,  
 have passed to some extent, and have been  
 in the letters, in our letters, and letters.

Letters, however, to  
 attend and improve, but a degree of letter  
 determine to the surface, and to the administration,  
 upon the line, and perhaps, and perhaps, and  
 our suspension. For the purpose of preparing  
 given to the letters. The great administration of letters  
 in letters, and the letters in the letters, and

















2) the downward action: the inhibition.

Communion & Salt water, wine,  
and all manner of care with the women are  
strictly required. An enormous expense is  
put upon them, and they are so ill treated  
that you must expect to find many of them  
in a state of insanity.

It would be well to attend  
to the cause of the common household  
flies. I was two years, on every stage of the  
continent, one of the most disgusting insects  
that ever was given. It is the pest of the poor, and  
it is a source of great trouble and suffering to  
many. It is a pest of the poor, and it is a source  
of great trouble and suffering to many. It is a pest  
of the poor, and it is a source of great trouble and  
suffering to many. It is a pest of the poor, and it is  
a source of great trouble and suffering to many.



linia of Cholera attended with dysenteric symptoms. It is cultivated in many of our gardens to the South, and is freely made use of, not only in Cholera Infantum, but also, as a drink in Stthesis Pulmonalis, Catarrh, Gonorrhoea, Dysentery, and Dysenteria, and I have no doubt, will be found a valuable addenda, in many of the diseases mentioned above.

When the mucous tipes of the bowels is disordered, the tongue becoming loaded and the stools slimy, the Spirits of Turpentine in doses of from five to twenty drops, three or four times a day, in sweetened water, will be found beneficial. Let it be remembered, that signal advantage has been derived, from clearing the flannel rollers.

Regimen. The diet should consist exclusively of breast milk. In the commencement of the disease, it will sometimes cure itself, and



Orn tea, Rice, and barley water, when the breast  
is refused. The pneumonia in more advanced  
stages may be given Sapioca Arrowroot &c. and  
ham and salt fish, when there is great irritability  
of the stomach.

Now all our remedies, country  
air is to be resorted to, has been found of infinite  
advantage in all stages of the disease, and  
when it cannot be obtained frequently changed  
by riding and sailing, must be had recourse  
to, for as long as a child remains exposed  
to the operation of the cause of the disease, the  
Physician may suspend or palliate, but its  
return as a relapse, with a final extinction of  
strength, blots all his hopes of a recovery, and  
he has the mortification of seeing his patient expire  
under the most judicious treatment.

